

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 5, 2013

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Harford Community Action Agency Offers Free Income Tax Assistance

(Bel Air, MD) - - The Harford Community Action Agency (HCAA) is once again providing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) to individuals and families with low- to moderate-incomes (annual income of up to \$50,000). The program is a free income tax assistance service where help with preparing and filing (paper or electronically) state and federal returns are offered; the program is also able to assist with filing prior year as well as amended returns.

The program helps filers take advantage of all the tax credits for which they are eligible, whether or not they owe taxes. These credits include the Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and educational credits. Filers, with or without a bank account, have the option of purchasing savings bonds in \$50 increments directly from their tax refund at the time they file.

Filers may also request information and/or referral to additional programs and services available at HCAA. VITA program coordinator Colleen Wagner oversees a staff of volunteers, all of whom have passed required IRS testing which certifies them as a tax preparer in the VITA program. Volunteers represent a variety of people from college students studying accounting, through CPAs and others who have prepared taxes for years.

Tax preparations services are offered at the Harford Community Action Agency, located at 1321B Woodbridge Station Way in Edgewood. The VITA site opened for business on Saturday, January 26 and will close April 6, 2013. Hours are 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins are seen only if time permits. To schedule an appointment, call 410-612-9909, Ext. 2220.

Additionally the VITA program has scheduled two special one-day events: the first on February 11, 2013 at the Havre de Grace Housing Authority; and the second on February 20, 2013 at Mason Dixon Community Services in Street, Maryland.

(more)

Harford Community Action Agency Offers Free Income Tax Assistance
February 5, 2013
Page Two

Individuals interested in attending those events should contact the sponsoring organizations directly: the Havre de Grace Housing Authority can be reached at 410-939-2097; or Mason Dixon Community Services at 410-452-9025.

Harford Community Action Agency, Inc. (HCAA) works in partnership with the Harford County Government to help address the housing and community development needs of the low- to moderate-income residents of Harford County. HCAA is a private, non-profit organization governed by a board of directors. The agency delivers services to residents of Harford County through heating fuel assistance, utility assistance, emergency food, eviction prevention, training and budget counseling.

- 30 -

“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”